AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, AUSTRALIA, JUNE QUARTER 1980 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

NOTE. These statistics represent the average earnings of male employees. They do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average man'. See the first paragraph of the Explanatory Notes.

The preliminary estimate of average weekly earnings per employed male unit for the June quarter 1980 is $256.70. (This is an estimate of the average earnings, before tax, of all male civilian employees in Australia, including the highest paid as well as the lowest.)

In seasonally adjusted terms the estimate is $258.70, 3.1 per cent higher than in the March quarter and 11.8 per cent above the figure for the June quarter 1979.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This preliminary publication contains estimates of the average weekly earnings of civilian male employees. These statistics of *earnings* should not be confused with the weighted average minimum weekly *wage rates*, for which the figure for adult males at the end of May 1980 was $176.54. As the data used in the compilation of the earnings estimates are not obtained for individual employees it is not possible to derive a distribution of earnings. It should be noted that the estimates for the most recent quarter are preliminary and are likely to be revised when the more detailed publication *Average Weekly Earnings* (6302.0) is issued.

Definition of earnings

2.   The earnings figures used in the calculation of the averages comprise award and over-award wages and salaries, the earnings of employees not covered by awards, overtime earnings, bonuses and allowances, commissions, directors' fees and payments made retrospectively or in advance during the quarter. Earnings of managerial and executive staff, of part-time as well as full-time employees, and of juniors as well as adults, are included.

Method of estimation

3.   For industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, particulars of employment and wages and salaries are derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and other bodies. These returns account for approximately 85 per cent of wage and salary earners in these industries, as published monthly in the publication *Civilian Employees* (6213.0). Estimates are made for the unrecorded balance.

4.   For employees reported on more than one payroll, all reported wage and salary earnings are included in the calculation of averages.

Male units

5.   Particulars of wages and salaries paid are not available for males and females separately from the sources used for this series; average weekly earnings have therefore been calculated in terms of *male units*, i.e. total male employees plus a proportion of female employees, the proportion being derived from the estimated ratio of female to male average earnings.

6.   The ratio used at present is approximately 66.5 per cent. Changes in this ratio may be necessary from one period to another to reflect, for example, appreciable and sustained changes in the levels of male overtime earnings or changes in the occupational structure. However, small differences in the ratios have relatively little effect on the earnings figures; if the ratio were understated by one per cent then average weekly earnings of $250 would be overstated by about $1.00.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

7.   Quarterly figures are affected by seasonal influences. For example, special payments, including prepayment for holiday periods, tend to raise the December quarter and to depress the March quarter averages. In addition, figures are affected by the varying number of pay-days in different quarters. Allowance for these variations, and for recurring seasonal influences, has been made in calculating the seasonally adjusted estimates.

8.   The seasonal adjustment factors are derived from a series from which the influence of major changes in awards and determinations and estimates of the effects of pay-day variations has first been removed. While the seasonally adjusted series retain the effect of the major award, etc. changes, the pay-day effect is excluded. A detailed description of the methods of seasonal adjustment is given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators* (1308.0).

Related publications

All current publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

p   preliminary — figure subject to revision

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : AUSTRALIA

Quarter	Original $	Seasonally adjusted (b) $	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %
1975 –				
March	143.80	152.00	+2.8	+27.0
June	156.40	153.60	+1.1	+21.5
September	157.60	159.80	+4.0	+13.3
December	175.70	167.40	+4.8	+13.3
1976 –				
March	165.30	169.90	+1.5	+11.8
June	179.80	179.50	+5.7	+16.9
September	184.80	184.40	+2.7	+15.4
December	195.40	187.80	+1.8	+12.2
1977 –				
March	183.80	192.30	+2.4	+13.2
June	198.70	198.40	+3.2	+10.5
September	204.10	202.90	+2.3	+10.0
December	212.50	206.90	+2.0	+10.2
1978 –				
March	205.10	211.80	+2.4	+10.1
June	216.30	215.50	+1.7	+8.6
September	218.90	221.40	+2.7	+9.1
December	228.20	222.00	+0.3	+7.3
1979 –				
March	222.80	231.00	+4.1	+9.1
June	232.80	231.40	+0.2	+7.4
September	238.30	238.60	+3.1	+7.8
December	248.30	243.70	+2.1	+9.8
1980 –				
March	245.70	250.90	+3.0	+8.6
June p	256.70	258.70	+3.1	+11.8

(a) See explanation in paragraphs 5 and 6. (b) See paragraphs 7 and 8. (c) Percentage change over the previous quarter in the seasonally adjusted series. (d) Percentage change over the same quarter of the previous year in the seasonally adjusted series.